

Any of us tuning into the evening news all you got to do is listen to talk radio and you and I become quickly aware of the fact my friends that we find ourselves in the midst of very interesting times. These are difficult days in the life of this world in the life of this culture in the life of our world specifically. And in the midst of times like these whether it's political unrest or economic struggles or what ever you may be facing at work. In the midst of times like of these often times people begin every day people like you and me begin to ask really important questions. Questions about their lives, questions about their futures, even questions about God. Where's God they ask? Where's God in the midst of depleted 401K's and staggering unemployment predictions? They want to know will God be faithful? Is God faithful? Can he be trusted in an unsettled and unstable world? Is he really good they ask? I mean they tell you and they tell me. Well they you know they say I know you always talk about his goodness. I know you always talk about he's got a plan. Does he really? And is the plan good? And does he realize what's going on? Is he trustworthy? Will he truly sustain us in the midst of such great difficulty? Will he redeem the broken? And will he protect those who are his? You may hear the question asked this way. We've tried to incorporate some of this question in to the title slide in our series. How can we know that God will do his transforming work? How can we know that he will continue to do his conforming work in the midst of anxious and trying times? And my friends I'm here today to declare to you the answer to those questions. I'm here today to as loudly and boldly and gratefully as I can say to everyone of us. Will he continue to do his transforming work in the midst of anxious times? The answer is an emphatic yes. And I say yes to because I believe the word of God says to you. And the word of God says yes because my friends from the very beginning of time he's been doing his transforming work in the midst of anxious unsettled difficult times. Amen? And that's where we've gone with this series over the next seven, eight weeks on these summer Sunday mornings we will be looking back at the beginning. And what a book it is. I'll tell you just going back through it recently I've been reminded what an amazing read. What an amazing study. What an incredible encouragement the book of Genesis is. And we will be giving ourselves to seven timeless stories from the book of Genesis over these next several weeks. And in these stories we will see my friends the faithfulness of God. We will see the goodness of God. We will see God continuing to do his work in the midst of really difficult stuff. He's always been doing it. And he continues to do it today. And I believe many of us will derive great encouragement as we take a look back at God at work. This morning the first story the first of the seven timeless stories we'll look at the story of the fall. That's right the fall of mankind found in Genesis chapter three. Open your bibles if you brought them with you today. Open them up to genesis chapter three and before we look at the story of the fall we've got to be really clear. I want us everybody here. I want us to be really clear on one very big point before we get to chapter three. And that one very big point is that prior to chapter three in the book of Genesis what we see among other things is that God had finished his creation. And in chapter one we are told that God's creation by God's account in God's estimation was excellent. God saw as the chapter as the text says God saw all that he had made and behold it was very good. God the divine creator stood back saw everything that he had made and seeing it all together seeing all of it in harmony seeing the land seeing the mountains seeing the sea seeing the animals the birds seeing man seeing the heavens seeing all of it in harmony with each other God declares that what he has made is really, really good. My friends I want you just for a moment and it's difficult for you and I. it's difficult for us to do this in the midst of such fallenness but I want to just try to imagine what that was like. It was all the sky the sea the animals man the heavens all of it unblemished. All of it perfect. All of it pristine. All of it beautiful. All of it just complete nothing missing. Everything about all of it was right. There wasn't anything wrong. What a picture. What a reality. And with that clearly in your minds the story of the fall actually begins at the end of chapter two. Look at chapter 2, verse 25. With all of that in view I want you to see what it says in 2:25. Where it says and the man and his wife were both naked and were not what? And they were not ashamed. They were not ashamed. The word there used for naked in the Hebrew text is the word *arom*- A R O M. It's from the root word *arum* which can mean naked, nude, or smooth. Naked, nude, or smooth it can also mean watch this. It can also mean cunning prudent or crafty. And for those of you that know this story and where it's going that's an interesting word isn't it? Naked nude or smooth cunning prudent or crafty I think it's appropriate I really do that we have a word that goes beyond what

we have come to know as naked or nude. This infers that Adam and Eve were conscience of being sufficiently covered in the physical sense in that they had their natural clothing. You see that? They had their natural clothing or skin. They were smooth arum. They had no concept of nudity from spiritual point of view they had all the clothing they needed. They were dressed with the consciousness of complete and absolute innocents. There wasn't anything wrong. They weren't missing a thing. They were covered sufficiently and they knew it. And they were at peace with this. They were arum. Naked in that they were prudent and intelligent enough to dispatch their duties and fellowship with their creator God. Remember God said that it was perfect. That it was good. They were not ashamed. Physically or with respect to their function for shame implies a sense of what? Guilt which they simply did not have because they hadn't done anything wrong. They lived there in the garden with their personal and spiritual integrity in tact. On the other hand watch this. On the other hand watch as we see Satan use his arum. Watch as we see Satan use his craftiness to take advantage of their integrity. We'll come back to that. Verse one chapter three now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Now the serpent was more crafty. Here in verse one of chapter three we're told of another creature another created being the nahas or serpent. There's been much discussion over the centuries regarding the snake or serpent that appeared to Eve in the garden that day. Snakes have caught the interest of man for thousands of years. You may love them. You may hate them. But they've got quite a history. In Egyptian history the snake occupies a primary role with the Nile cobra adorning the crown of the Pharaoh in ancient times. The snake was worshiped as one of the gods. And yet also used for sinister purposes murder of an adversary and the ritual suicide of Cleopatra. Snakes have also been widely revered such as in ancient Greece where the serpent was seen as a healer. Asclepius carried two inner-twined on his wand a symbol seen on many ambulances. In Judaism the snake of brass is also a symbol of healing of ones life being saved from imminent death. You can read about that in Numbers 26. And in Christianity Christ's redemptive work is compared to saving ones life through beholding the serpent of brass. John 3:14. You can write that down. All that being said though a little quick history on snakes in biblical Christianity the serpent was primarily seen as a representative of evil an representative of sly cunning plotting as viewed and described for us here in genesis chapter three. Now if you think about it. And I want you to. You stop and think about it for moment. It's possible I believe that many people have over the years come to connect evil with snakes for a number of reasons. Here's just a few. They hide and strike when you aren't expecting it. Do you ever think about that? You'll hear folks say they never saw it coming. Think about this. The coiling ability of a snake the coiling ability can give one a false impression of his striking range. So you think you're sort of being cautious and position yourself at a certain distance. And then you realize there was more there than you thought. And he gets you. And really you shouldn't have been standing so close. You should have been standing further what? Away Snakes use camouflage to blend into the environment unnoticed. You ever think about that? Here's one. They tend to bite. They tend to strike at the feet or the foundation in order to bring down a large prey. Some interesting thoughts on how it is that snakes get connected to this concept of evil. Let's keep going. Now the serpent was back to Genesis 3:1. Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. This we know. A lot speculation about this serpent a lot of speculation about the snake. I don't want get into all of that. I want to just say this to you this morning. This we know for sure. Satan was the one doing the tempting. It was Satan in the likeness of a serpent. Whether it was Satan disguised as the visible shape and appearance of a snake or whether it was a real living snake possessed by the devil, don't know. Not sure either one could be a possibility. But the fact that Satan chose to act his part in this serpent is born out in a number of different scriptures. We see it all throughout God's word. I'll just give you a couple here. Revelation 12 You can look up later. You can write that down. It may be there on your note sheet. Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down the serpent of old who was called the devil and Satan who deceives the whole world he was thrown down to earth. And his angels were thrown down with him. Think about Revelation 20, verse 2. And he laid hold of the dragon the serpent of old who is the devil and Satan and bound him for a thousand years. There really is no doubt about it. Satan himself was at work here in Genesis 3, in the form of this serpent. The next significant point of the verse is the word crafty. You see there? In Genesis 3:1, now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field. The

Hebrew word there for crafty is guess what? Arum, sound familiar? Look familiar? Some believe that Hebrew word play and I would agree a Hebrew word play is going here because this Hebrew word to describe subtle or crafty is from the same word arum which we saw used to describe Adam and Eve in their nakedness. Arum is an adjective. It describes a person, place, or thing. I listened in English. I just want you to know that. Arum is an adjective meaning sensible, shrewd, even resourceful. This adjective kind of either have a positive or a negative connotation. When positive it takes on the meaning prudent or one who exercises sound judgment and is cautious or careful. We see this positive use of the word arum in a number of different places. Proverbs 12, Proverbs 14, Proverbs 12:16 says a fool's anger is known at once but a prudent or an arum conceals dishonor. The wisdom of the sensible, the wisdom of the arum is to understand his way, but the foolishness of fools is deceit. Positive usages, but, but, but, in Genesis 3, the word arum is used in the negative sense. Therefore it denotes premeditated craftiness or deceitfulness behind the words. There is for sure, for certain there is a game of deceit going on here. And the innate ability that the serpent had to be cunning careful and wise is used in a sinful negative fashion to deceive, trick and fool the individual. Now listen people. This is a hard one to get your arms around. But I want you try it with me here. This is where we see the magnitude of Satan's intent. And it's big. And when you stop and think about it. It's so tragic. It's so sad. Satan was there in all of his craftiness. In all of his deceitfulness, we find Satan here in this text here in this moment for one purpose and one purpose only. And as my friend Rod O. says wasn't to set up a fruit stand. He was there. Listen, listen. He was there to bring down mankind the whole thing. He knew what was at stake. He's there to destroy all that was perfect and pure. He's there to put an end to the Eden experience before it could spread. With his negative arum his craftiness let's look closely, shall we? At the approach that evil one took in his effort to lead Eve toward the fall. Satan's steps as he tempts Eve towards the fall. I'll tell you this as you go. As we look at this. I guarantee you that you will see a lot. One of the things that you'll see is that his steps that he took with Eve aren't any different than the steps he takes with guess who? You. Nothing at all has changed. Let me start by saying this before we get to the first step. In this entire setup and you've got to be honest with yourself. We all just got to just understand that this is what he is doing. He is setting Eve up. In all these steps, he's setting up. He's prepping Eve to fail. And in all of this set-up he never once comes outright says Eve disobey God. Never once does he come outright and just flat out say Eve I want you to disobey God. He never does it. But instead uses suggestion and innuendo to aide her into reaching false conclusions of her own. And then she simply follows her own misguided inaccurate course. It's an amazing series of events. Satan's steps as he tempts Eve towards the fall. Number one his first step is to marginalize. His first step has always been. And his first step continues to be to marginalize God. To marginalize God Genesis 3:1 now the serpent was more crafty than beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman indeed has God's said. And we'll stop right there. As you read that, what this. Maybe you knew this maybe you didn't. as you read that you realize something. In a very subtle way Satan begins the marginalization of God by using a different word for God. Did you know this? Every where in chapter one and two most every where in the chapters leading up to three almost everywhere immediately after three when you see the god in the Hebrew text what you see is Elohim Yahweh. Yahweh Elohim, the Lord God. Or you see Jehovah. When you look at the Hebrew and you read around this passage the word used for God again and again is the word that lifts God up. It's the word that talks about the majesty and the power and the bigness and the holiness of God. It's like God capital G, big capital G. You with me? Subtly when he says to Eve indeed has God said he uses the word Elohim, just Elohim, just god. Now it's God. It's even still capital G, God. But if Yahweh Elohim or Jehovah's right here, big God, capital G, God, God for all he's worth. Elohim god would be right about here. It's god. You with me? Huge God capital G, sort of capital G god right here. He begins to diminish the view of God. He begins to distract from the perspective of God. Satan begins the game of temptation by lowering the level of reverence and majesty and holiness and authority. Satan always wants to marginalize and diminish our relationship and our view of our great holy mighty God. His desire is to attack and undermine the object of our faith so that our departure from our faith so that our disobedience is really at the end the day not that big of leap. It's a whole lot bigger deal. It's a whole lot bigger jump when you and I jump to disobedience from this place of a right view of Yahweh Elohim the Lord God who is big capital G. It's a long

way from here all the way over to disobedience. That's a big jump. It's not that big of jump from right here God. It's God, but it's just God. He's subtly begins to move in.

Second step, Satan's second step is cast or create doubt. To cast or create doubt. Secondly Satan begins with a half questioning half insinuating remark. This is just, it's amazing when you really stop and think about this. Genesis 3:1 He says indeed, indeed has god said you shall not eat from any tree of the garden. The purpose of this opening question was to raise, listen. Was to raise just a moderate just an ever so slight moderate level of doubt of questioning. Maybe you can image how he says it to her. Maybe you can kind of hear how he says it. And maybe you can hear, because maybe you've heard it. I've heard it. Have you? Hey, do you really, really say that? I mean think about it Kelly. He really said that you shouldn't do that really? Did he really say that? I mean why would he say that to you. I mean he know he's god and everything, but I mean really? Is it really that big of a deal. You've heard these words. I've heard these words. He is the master of casting and creating doubt. And where that casting of doubt led with Eve? And where that creating of doubt goes with you and me exact same place. It leads us to this deadly. It's beginning. It's kind of way back here at the beginning of the process but boy it's a deadly statement. And here's the statement it leads to. Now why would God keep that from me? Now we start to think about it. Now we listen to him. And we start what was God thinking? It can't really be that bad. And on he goes.

Step three, his third step. Now that he's got her where he wants her, it's to distort the truth. Satan misquotes or distorts the word of God. We notice there in 3:1 that he exaggerates the verbiage by making the prohibition that God has spoken much greater than it was. Has god said hey Eve listen. Has god said that you can't eat any fruit from any tree? Now let me ask you? Did god say that yes or no? no, God didn't say that. That's not what God's word you with me? That's not what God word was. See he distorts God's word. And many of you know this. And I know I've experienced this. Many of the sin problems we experience in our Christian lives stems from us not accurately knowing God's word. It stems from us not accurately knowing it. Not accurately teaching it. Not accurately handling it. We think we know it, but we don't. because we don't read it. We don't study it. We don't memorize it. We don't hide it in our hearts. Many times verse are pulled out of context and bent a little or sometimes a lot to serve someone's agenda or satisfy a preference. So many times the inaccurate handling of the scriptures leads to all kinds of sin and turmoil and trouble. You know my parents grew in a time and in a day they grew up in a Christian culture if you will. Some of your parents maybe did. Some of you possibly grew up in a culture like this. It was you know I think in some ways good well intending people but none the less. They didn't handle this very well. They, my parents grew up in a time and some what they grew up with it was rigid and it was legalistic and it was narrow. And it was stiffening and some it kind of spilled over into my younger days. I mean I would listen to them talk. And I would listen to others talk in that world. And you know they were just like. There weren't any cards. And there weren't movies. And there weren't long hair. And there wasn't any this. And there wasn't any of that. I mean there were just these long lists of things that you just didn't do, places you didn't go, stuff that you weren't a part. And to listen to them you would have thought, as a boy I thought gosh there's got to be a chapter and verse for these things somewhere. I just can't find it. And then you get older and you realize they were making it up. I mean you know no offense. But be offended. I mean it wasn't there. I wasn't there. I think sometimes man I'm glad I figured it out you know by like fifteen I would have missed Journey and Foreigner and Kansas. That would have been horrible. Can't tell you how many times I've sat in a restaurant booth or in my office with a couple getting ready to be married. And enjoying the honest conversation that we most often times have in that setting. And inevitably those conversations go to the state of their physical relationship as they approach marriage. Can't tell you how many times it's broken my heart to bump into people who not with a rebellious spirit, no. not with a like fist clenched we're going to teach you, no just like really freely offering to me the fact that they are involved sexually. And it's their understanding that God's word allows that as long as they're going to get married. You know and it's, it's just amazing how when for what ever reason truth gets distorted. Distorted truth leads to distorted living. When the truth gets altered

when the truth gets tweaked when the truth gets adjusted just a little bit or a lot then decisions get made, choices get made and all of a sudden life begins to look distorted. The woman said to the serpent watch how she, she's sort of volley backs. She kind of makes an effort here. The woman says to the serpent from the fruit of the tree of the garden we may eat. It wasn't all the trees. But from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden God said you shall not eat from it or touch it. Did God say that? Nope. Never said anything about touch. Or you will die. Okay so let's review. Watch this. I think there's a. I think there's a really interesting principle here about temptation and sin. I don't know how far we can take it with the time but let me just at least lay it out there for you. Eve's minding her own business. And Satan disguised as a snake. Satan disguised as an animal begins a conversation with her. You can read it a thousand times. I've read it. I've looked at all the books. I've looked at all the commentaries. There is no indication what so ever of any concern or surprise on Eve's part that at an animal is talking to her in the garden hanging from a tree. None, you say so what? What's the point? Well here's the point. I believe we can assume from that there must have been that this must have been a creature with whom she was familiar and comfortable. She was familiar and comfortable. What happens to you and me so many times when we get familiar and comfortable? So many the guard goes down. So many times the resistance level drops. So many times wisdom vacates. More to say there, but we'll move on. Let's keep going. When the snake performs his clever routine Eve responds. We read that verses two and three. Initially she corrects his protest to all trees being off limits. She says no it's the one in the middle. It was kind of a strong start. Kind of got to give her a little clap--atta girl Eve. But it fades. She eventually gets caught up in the protest and in time even refers to her intimate friend and holy majestic god she in the same text refers to him as Elohim casual acquaintance the common name of god. The marginalization of god continues. We see there that it worked. Finally followed Satan's lead and proceeds to an exaggerated statement of her own regarding god's prohibition by reporting that they could not eat it or even touch it or they would die. Genesis 2:17. You can write it down. Genesis 2:17 these were the original words of god on that front. You shall not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For when you eat of it you will surely die. No mention at all anywhere of touching. She adds it. Why? Why the exaggeration? This is important. Why the exaggeration? Some might say perhaps Eve wasn't listening when Adam repeated the rules to her. Maybe the forbidden became an obsession. It happens. But what seems most probable is that Eve was now beginning to feel as if the prohibition was. And this a very important very dangerous word in this whole temptation game. She was beginning to feel as if the prohibition was unfair. God's, she's now concluding that god has been and that which he has prohibited now god is seeing as unfair, unfair. In that case her distortion comes from a heart that had been nudged and prodded and moved with great craftiness and arum by the evil one's progressive questioning doubting efforts. The serpent said to the woman you surely verse four. The serpent said to the woman you surely shall not. You surely will not die. For god knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be open and you will be like God knowing good and evil.

The next step, write it down. Is a combination of a denial and a lie. Once Eve showed the slightest measure of doubt and this is just like him. When he sees or smells the slightest level of doubt in you boom! He pounces. He's got you dialed in. Satan went from innuendo to flat out denial and lying. He emphatically denied that the consequence was real. You surely will not die. He said he doesn't just whisper this. The grammar in the Hebrew indicates that he emphatically declares it. And notice that he continues immediately. For God knows he says to her. For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened. Don't be fooled Eve. Don't let him pull one over on you. You will be like God knowing good and evil. That is to say it's not because the fruit of the tree will hurt you. It's just that God doesn't want you eating that fruit. Because he doesn't want you to be like him. It's just this simple Eve. God's a jerk. He's this egotistical god who demands your worship and obedience and then keeps from you the stuff that you want. Who does he think he is? How dare he do that to you! First Satan blatantly negates the penalty of death. And then he infers wrong doing by God. He lays out a case for the prohibition being evidence of God's self serving will or his envy or his potential envy. And what you and I have to stop and remember in the midst of this messiness is this. Please remember this. Please don't forget this.

Please don't let this ever fade far from your mind my friends. That Satan is a liar. He is a liar. He lies. He lies. That's all he does is lie to you. Whatever he's promising you right now I don't know all that he's tempting you with. I know some of it because he's tempting me with it too. I don't the specifics of what he's trying to lead you toward outside of your marriage or outside of your job or in the privacy of your own office or wherever. But I can tell you this. Whatever he's promising you is a lie. It won't come true. It won't be fulfilled. You won't be happy. You won't be relieved. You won't escape. You'll die. He's a liar. Jesus said it himself John 8:44. He was talking to some guys he wasn't happy with. You are of your father the devil and you want to do the desires of your father. He, your father Satan was a murderer. From the beginning and does not stand in the truth because theirs no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie he speaks from his own nature. For he is a liar and the father of lies. So all so watch this. All these steps now lead Eve to this tragic place. Desire and rationalization, desire and rationalization by this time Eve is captivated. She became entangled by the conversation joined in with her own insecure statements and now with this new unchecked revelation she begins to see the tree in a much different light. Now she desires its forbidden fruit. And so the rationalization process began. Verse 6, when the woman watch this. When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes that the tree was desirable to make one wise she took from its fruit and ate. And she gave also to her husband who was what? With her and he what? Ate you know as you read that verse you've got to stop here just for a moment because as you read that verse it sounds very familiar. I told you at the beginning of this talk that what you would see is that the attempts of Satan the steps that he uses are no different today than they were then. The strategy is just the same. It's never changed. And I want to lay this scenario. I think about at the other end of the scripture back all the way back at first John, I think we see something there that convinces us that this is true. That nothing has changed. Look at first John 2:15 – 17. First John 2:15 – 17. I want to lay this scenario in Genesis 3 next to a very famous warning given to us by the disciple John. Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the father is not him. For all that is in the world everything represented by the fruit of that tree the lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the father but its from the world. The world is passing away and also its lusts. But the one who does the will of god lives forever. What we see here is that the pattern has not changed from the beginning of time. This very first sin followed the same course it does today. First we note that Satan first captured the ear then the eye then the inwards desire and finally the will. You can write it down. Eve allowed her ear to listen to the tempter. Don't listen to him. She allows her ear to listen to the tempter. She allowed her eye to feed on the object of temptation. Look away. Turn your head. Run! Don't listen. Don't look. She allowed desire then once she hears it once she feasts on it visually. She allows desire then to run away with the will. You can just kind of connect it in the verses. When the woman saw that the tree was good for food lust of the flesh. And that it was a delight to the eyes lust to the eyes. And that the tree was desirable to make one wise the boastful pride of life. And she falls. She sins. The first temptation in Eden and all of the millions and millions of temptations by which men and women have been lured into sin ever since are fundamentally identical. He's always done it the same way. I don't think he'll ever change. So what happened? Eve takes and eats the fruit and she sins. And she turns to Adam and gives him the fruit and he eats it and he sins. And we became in that moment we all became sinners. And then they hear god oh my goodness. Oh man every time I read this I just cringe. Do you cringe? I just cringe. They hear God. They eat the fruit. You've been there. I've been there. You make the choice. It says in the text that they heard God walking in the cool of the day. He's coming to take a walk with them. And they hide. Because as the text says Genesis 3:9. You don't even want to read it. Then the Lord God called to the man. Who did he call out to? The man. Who ate the fruit first? Who's responsible? Men are responsible. Alright I just want to make sure you were with me here. Then the Lord God called to the man. And said to him, "where are you?" and he said I heard the sound of you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid myself. They hide because now they're no longer unashamed. Now all of a sudden they're ashamed. Now they are guilty. They are no longer innocent. And God curses. God delivers this curse. He curses the serpent. He delivers the curse to Eve. He says your pain in childbirth will now be multiplied. So gals you can thank her for that. He says to Adam you're going to just work your tail off your whole life. And it's just going to hurt. It's going to be

hard. It's going to be toil. Serpent you're going to crawl around on your belly. Woman you're going to have increased pain in childbirth. And you're going to want to control men. Says it right there. (Laughing) Your desire will be for the man. That wasn't a joke, that was serious. (Laughing) I know it's not very funny. But women you're going to want to control men. And that is part of the curse. It's not going to work. It will never go well when you try and do that. And he curses man. Says you're going to just work your tail off. It's going to be tough. It's going to be hard. It's not going to be anything like it was. They're cursed. They're now fallen. They're tainted. And they're evicted. Remember that? They're evicted. They're tossed out. Can you just stop for a moment? I think Beth's got some pictures for us. Can you just stop for a moment in light of all that we've seen now? Especially in light of all that they had. Can you just stop for a moment and just look at that picture. And as you look at that picture this morning, would you allow yourself to just feel what that must have been like to have lost all of it. Can you image the remorse? Can you imagine the regret? Can you image the sense of what had been lost? Can you image the fear? Can you image the uncertainty? Can you image just the horror? Where were they going? What were they going to do? Well it's really an amazing thing and I want to just end with this. You're sitting here going hey Kelly I thought this was about the goodness of God. Where's God at work in anxious times? Okay I thought the whole series was about how God comes along side his people and how God redeems that which was broken. Okay you ready? Been waiting all week to show you this remind many of you of this. Others maybe you never knew this. Look at verse 22, Genesis 3:22 and 24. 22,23, and 24 Then the Lord God, Elohim Yahweh, then the Lord God said behold the man has become like one of us knowing good and evil. And now he might stretch out his hand and take also. He took from that tree now if he stays here he might also take from the tree of life and eat and live what? Forever in his newly acquired sinful state. Wow, did you ever see that? Can't have that. I love him too much God says. I've got to redeem you. I've got to save you. I've got to kick into action here. What's broke and has to be made new. What's lost has to be found. What's wondering has to be saved. So yes, I'll evict you. So drove the man out. And the east end of the Garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life. Why don't you stand quietly with me this morning? And as you stand, let me just remind you that in the midst of a regret and a remorse that I don't think any of you and I could ever begin to describe. In the midst of their darkest moment, in the midst of something that was just catastrophically horrible in the midst of what ever it is you're facing in the midst of tough times in the midst of difficult days our God has always been a God who redeems. Our God has always been God who makes a way. Our God has always been a God who comes along side in the middle of your worst decision and says you know what I love you. And I'm going to give you a way back. And so he boots them out of the garden. Because if they had eaten from that tree of life they would have lived in their sinful state and God couldn't have it. And I hope this morning that that's a great reminder to you. I hope the interaction between the enemy and Eve gives you some things to think about in terms of how you do battle against him. And I hope God's response at the end of the story leaves you hopeful today. I know it does me.

Let's pray. God thank you for the morning thank you for the worship thank you for the truth thank you for the body of Christ thank you that we can be here together. And God as followers of your son as followers of Jesus Christ may we leave this place ready to do like he did. Ready to battle with the temptation of the evil one ready God not to rely on our own strength but God to rely on you on your spirit on your word and the support of your people. God give us strength to do that very thing. And we'll thank you for it. And all the people in the room agreed and said, Amen.